



Operation SURGE uplifts Northeast

Officers in the East Patrol Division came together to try something new in hopes of making a positive impact on crime in the old Northeast area of Kansas City.

Operation SURGE (Strategic Uniform Response Group Effort) took place Sept. 19-22 in the area of Thompson to 7th Street, and Benton to Elmwood, a 2.2-square-mile area. This area alone has generated 287 police reports from Jan. 1 to Sept. 1, 2016, ranging from shootings to drug paraphernalia.

“The overall intent of this operation was to engage the community, problem solve, take immediate action, and develop a list of further action needed,” said Major Joe McHale, Commander of East Patrol.

The target location was chosen through crime data, officers’ observations and concerns from residents and business owners. With coordination by Captain Ryan Mills and Sergeant Andrew Uptegrove, officers focused primarily on quality-of-life issues for the impacted neighborhoods, such as narcotics usage, illegal dumping, prostitution, theft and other crimes associated with a nearby homeless population.

What makes this initiative different, Captain Mills, said, is, “We aren’t having specialized units come in. We used the officers that work the field and work the assignments on a daily basis. ...

“Using our people in a relatively small, localized area, trying to effect a lot of change over a short amount of time, will help us build intelligence information that we can use moving forward.”

In addition to the enforcement saturation and arrests, offic-



Sergeant Andrew Uptegrove and Captain Ryan Mills helped organize an effort carried out by East Patrol Division officers to address quality-of-life issues in high-crime neighborhoods in the historic Northeast part of Kansas City.

ers partnered with Justice Project of Kansas City. According to their web site, the Justice Project provides criminal justice and social systems advocacy and navigation for women in poverty who may be suffering from a multitude of challenges, including homelessness, discrimination, addiction, mental illness, domestic violence, prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation so they might leave their at-risk life-style.

“If we can do something else or different to get prostitutes

into more productive, law-abiding lives, hopefully we can make more of an impact,” Captain Mills said.

Eight women were arrested for prostitution during the operation, and all were given signature bonds at the police station. While there, the Justice Project offered all of them services to help make this arrest their last one. The operation also led to the arrest of six men for patronizing prostitution.

Officers were also able to get resources to needy residents and worked with the City to remove trash ranging from mattresses to tires to brush. Unlike many other major police operations, members of the community were invited to stop by Operation SURGE’s command post at Independence Avenue and Gladstone Boulevard to check in with police on how things were going and share their concerns. Throughout the Operation, officers took note of issues that will need follow-

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Body-worn camera test begins

Kansas City Police began testing body-worn cameras Sept. 26.

The 90-day test is to determine what kind of data storage would be necessary to sustain a department-wide body camera deployment and the cost of that storage and any needed upgrades to KCPD's information technology. The test also should reveal any issues with the department's proposed policy on body-worn cameras and get feedback from officers who use them.

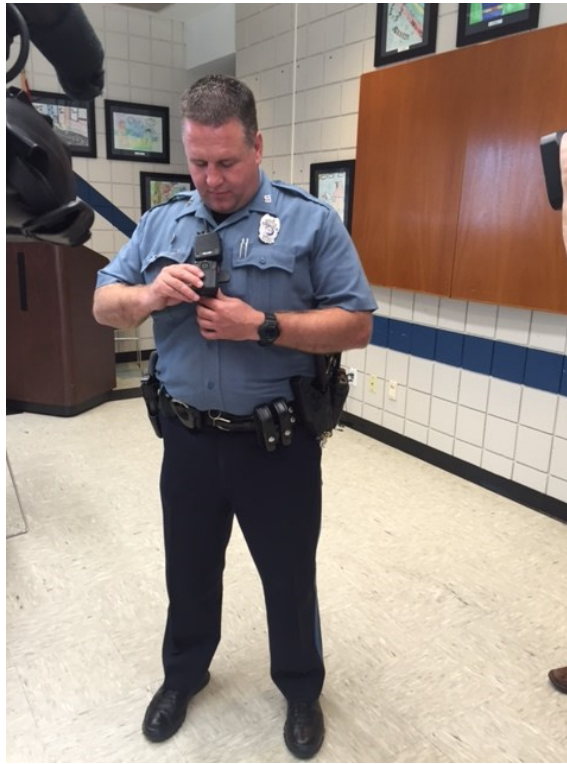
A work group of members of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department have spent more than a year meeting with other community members, researching lessons learned at other agencies and studying federal directives in preparation for the implementation of body cameras in Kansas City, Mo.

"We've seen other agencies rush to get the cameras out and then have to pull them back because they couldn't afford the storage costs or other issues," Chief Darryl Forté said. "We don't want that to happen in Kansas City. If we promise something to people, we want to be able to keep that promise."

A vendor has loaned KCPD about 25 cameras to test. The only cost to the department for the 90-day test will be about \$1,000 for overtime related to training officers how to use the equipment.

The cameras will be tested on officers who work in urban and suburban patrol divisions, as well as in specialized units like Traffic Enforcement and Bike Patrol.

"The average shift for a Tactical Enforcement officer may be



Central Patrol Division Officer Kevin Zoellner is one of the officers who will be using a body-worn camera in the department's 90-day test.

very different and may generate a very different amount of video data than for a patrol officer," said Major Scott Glaeser of the Patrol Bureau.

The department wants to ascertain the amount of video footage and the accompanying data that will be generated by officers who work in a variety of assignments and environments. Officers who use the cameras also will be surveyed about their experience with them.

Footage generated during the test will be treated the same as police dashboard camera video: it is subject to provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law and cannot be released if it is evidentiary in nature. Major Glaeser said the department is still trying to determine what the retention period of the videos should be.

"State law only requires 30 days, but we currently keep dash-cam footage for two years," he said.

The longer the videos are retained, the more storage would cost. Major Glaeser said one thing commanders are taking into consideration is that, by policy, the public has 90 days to make a complaint about a police incident with the Office of Community Complaints.

This test is not intended to evaluate a vendor or equipment, Major Glaeser said, but rather to get an accurate picture of how much data will be used and to test-drive the department policy.

At the conclusion of the 90-day test period, department officials should have an accurate estimate on the cost of storing body camera footage on a department-wide level to present to City officials for budget consideration.

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up. They recorded 78 codes and city violations in need of action by the City.

Major McHale said Operation SURGE showed the kind of proactive work patrol officers can do.

"It was exciting to see everyone come together at the division station and be so involved," Captain Mills said. "It was fun to watch everyone work on a project with a common goal."

Operation SURGE officers made contact with 30-plus businesses and arrested 27 people, clearing 67 warrants. Seven of the arrests were for felonies. Police made five drug and three firearm recoveries. The operation also led to the removal of about two tons of trash and plant overgrowth.

"I am very proud of the efforts of the East Patrol Division and the ability to focus and work together as a team," Major McHale said. "Though we are not without fault or weakness, we strive every day to do our best and make a difference."

KCPD awarded \$700K Smart Policing grant

The Kansas City Police Department was one of six agencies nationwide to receive a Smart Policing Initiative Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in September.

The three-year, \$700,000 grant will go toward identifying concentrated areas of violent crime – “micro hotspots” no larger than two to three blocks – in East Patrol Division. The grant will then fund multiple evidence-based strategies to help neighborhoods become self-policing, also known as building collective efficacy.

“Research shows that if you can do that, the community develops an internal social control, and they take responsibility for their neighborhoods, and violent crime decreases,” said East Patrol Division Commander Joseph McHale, who applied for the grant.

Major McHale said the grant requires a planning phase of six months to a year. During that time, police will use intelligence information and data to determine where the “micro hotspots” are and what is causing crime there.

Once the plan is in place, police will go to work enacting a couple different strategies: targeted social service interventions and what Major McHale called “surgical arrests and prosecutions.” The goal of both is to build that collective efficacy so neighbors hold each other accountable and don’t tolerate crime. The University of Missouri-Kansas City and University of California-Fresno will help KCPD study how well the strategies work.

Part of the grant funding will go to hire a social worker specializing in intervention, Major McHale said. Similar to intervention workers with the Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA), the Smart Policing Initiative social worker will identify those most at risk for being involved in violence in the micro



Major Joseph McHale announced KCPD’s Smart Policing grant award outside East Patrol on Sept. 26. The office of Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker, right, received a complementary grant. The department will use the grant to help selected neighborhoods in East Patrol become self-policing.

hotspots, and then offer them social services to get out of a life of crime. Money from the grant also will pay for police resources to do proactive work in the identified micro hotspot neighborhoods. “People will see a different style of outreach from police in certain neighborhoods,” Major McHale said. “We’ll be asking them and looking for what factors are driving crime? Is it environmental? Are there certain people involved?”

The work will complement that of KC NoVA, Major McHale said, focusing on even smaller areas with the goal to develop self-policing neighborhoods. As with NoVA, KCPD will work with the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office to aggressively arrest and prosecute those responsible for the bulk of violent crime in their neighborhoods.

In a joint press conference at East Patrol Division on Sept. 26, Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters-Baker announced her office also received a nearly half-million-dollar Smart Prosecution grant, also from the U.S. Department of Justice. It was one of just five prosecutor’s offices in the nation to get the award.

KCPD is one of very few agencies to receive the Smart Policing grant twice. The first grant came in 2011 and ran through 2014. The full report of that grant’s outcome, “From Foot Patrol to Focused Deterrence,” is available on the Department of Justice’s web site.

The Smart Policing Grant supports violence reduction by building sustainable science-based crime reduction strategies. Kansas City’s East Patrol Division was chosen along with five other jurisdictions and research institutions. The initiative further seeks to promote analysis-driven, evidence-based policing by encouraging state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to develop effective, economical and innovative responses to crime. The goal is reduction in crime, and to improve community safety.

“People will see a **different** style of **outreach** from police in certain **neighborhoods.**”

- Major Joseph McHale
East Patrol Division Commander

Upcoming Events

October 9
Mounted Patrol Open
House

October 11
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting

October 25
Promotion Ceremony

October 27
Crime Stoppers Luncheon

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publication of KCPD's
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Officially Speaking

Awards

Life-Saving Award

Officer Donald Angle
Officer Kelsie McLees
Officer Matthew Oropeza

Retirements

Officer John Kessler
Officer Arthur Wallace
Administrative Assistant Joyce Jones

Obituary

Retired Officer Roy Milam

25-Year Rings

Master Patrol Officer Aric Anderson
Sergeant John Blomquist
Officer Ronald Boehmer
Fiscal Administrator Trina Canady
Captain Cindy Cotterman
Master Patrol Officer Erich Hellerich
Communications Specialist Jacqueline Hopkins
Sergeant James Knueppel
Master Patrol Officer Daniel Meyer
Officer Tommy Nichols
Officer Gregory Olson
Officer Christopher Romero
Sergeant Grant Ruark
Officer Jason Schulz
Captain Christopher Sicoli
Officer Anthony Stasiak
Officer John Whipple

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with professionalism,
honor and integrity.